LOCAL 400

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS

The Score

August 21, 2026

Local 400 Officers

Christine Melson, *Acting President*

Arthur Masi, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Executive Board

Jarrod Briley

Thomas Hudson

Jordan Jacobson

Walter Mamlok

Roy Wiseman

Member Updates - July 2026

At the end of July, Local 400 reported **511 members**, a net gain of zero members from the prior month. There were 381 Active Regular members, 19 Suspended Regular members, 110 Life members, and 1 Youth member. Below is the activity for the **month of July**.

WELCOME New Members

Carolyn Halsted, 7/1 Piano
Brian Reynolds, 7/1 Drums, Percussion, Conductor, Keyboard, Guitar, Vocalist
Madeleine (Marty) Tung, 7/3 Bassoon, Contrabassoon
Samuel Boundy, 7/30 Cello

If you are a contractor or are in the habit of hiring musicians, please consider our newest members. Their contact information can be found on our website in the password-protected Members' Area.

Welcome Back Reinstated Members

Linda Numagami, 7/7 Viola
Matthew Muehl-Miller, 7/22 French Horn
Jacob Dziubek, 7/23 Violin

Resigned Members

Michael Shayte
Jordan Watt
Eric Just
Josue Alfara Mora
Daniel Fagan
Bryn Coveney

Life Member Attainment

None for July

Member Milestones

None for July

In Memoriam

Local 400 mourns the loss of iconic Hartford jazz musician, Dr. Emery Austin Smith, who passed away on July 11. He was a member of Local 400 for 74 years. You can read about his legacy at this link.

Suspended Members (updated as of 8/14/26)

The members below, whose memberships expired on June 30, have been suspended for non-payment of membership dues:

Hannah Batsford
William Bivona
Wendy Case
Fengwan Chen
Sesil Cho
James Czeiner
Krystyana Czeiner
Emily DePalma
Juan Pedro Espinosa Monteros
Tyrone Fuertes
Sebastian Gobbels
Alexis Javier
Shaolan Liou
Christopher Louis
Haneef Nelson
Rheagan Osteen
Luigi Polcari
Mark Thornton

ROPA Conference

Local 400 had the pleasure of sponsoring two member delegates to the annual Regional Orchestra Players' Association (ROPA) Conference late July. This year's conference was held in Dallas, TX. And in case you didn't already know, Local 400's own **Steve Wade** is the President of ROPA and has been in his role for the past four years. Delegate **Gretchen Frazier** attended the conference, representing the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, and Delegate **Scott Cranston** attended, representing the New Haven Symphony Orchestra. Click the buttons below to read their respective reports on the conference.

Read Gretchen's Report

Read Scott's Report

Have a Voice in Your Local's Future!

We're looking for volunteer members to serve on our **By-Laws Committee** to review our Local's by-laws and recommend updates where needed. This is a great opportunity for rank-and-file members to have a direct voice in how our Local operates and help make sure our rules reflect the needs of today's membership. **Interested in serving?** Send us an email to request information or to volunteer. No special experience is required—just an interest in helping your union!

AFM-EPF Educational Webinars for Participants

Beginning in September, the American Federation of Musicians and Employers' Pension Fund (AFM-EPF) will offer bi-monthly 60-minute virtual educational webinars with interactive Q&A designed to help Participants of the Plan make informed decisions about their retirement and maximize the resources available through the Plan. Webinars are open to all.

Each session provides an overview of how the AFM-EPF Plan works and some key Plan provisions, including participation requirements, vesting rules, retirement eligibility, benefit calculations, and the death benefits available under the Plan. Participants will also learn how to access and navigate the Participant Portal, use the Pension Estimator to project future retirement benefits, and the importance of making a beneficiary designation.

To view the webinar schedule and register on the AFM-EPF website, click here

In addition to the educational webinars, the AFM-EPF has created a one-page Quick Guide overview of some Plan benefits, rules, and important resources. To view the Quick Guide, click here.

Are You a Freelance Musician?

The Freelance Musicians Association (FMA) is the AFM's newest player conference, joining the ranks of ICSOM, OCSOM, ROPA, RMA, and TMA. The creation of a dedicated Players' Conference recognizes that freelance work presents challenges distinct from those faced by musicians employed by orchestras, theaters, and recording labels. This new players' conference provides a forum for members from across the U.S. and Canada to share ideas, develop policy recommendations, and advocate collectively on issues that directly affect freelance careers.

The FMA meets the first Wednesday of every month, and annual membership dues is only five dollars. Please consider joining the FMA today!



To RSVP, please fill out this form. Zoom link will be emailed prior to the event.

Congratulations Organized Labor Night Lottery Winners!

Congratulations to the members below, whose names were randomly selected from the pool of 23 who entered our lottery. Each winner has received a pair of tickets* to the Hartford Yard Goats vs. the Reading Fightin' Phils game on September 5. It's part of Organized Labor Night at Dunkin Park in Hartford.

Local 400 purchased a block of 25 tickets to the event, and the Yard Goats awarded us an additional 4 tickets. Fifteen lucky Local 400 members' names were drawn in the lottery:

Barbara Hill
Scott Cranston
Joe Russo
Christine Melson
Jackie Harris-Stone
Topher Logan
Bob Groff
Andrew Studenski
Mark Stein
Michael Wheeler
Ed Clark
Roy Wiseman
John Charles Thomas
Tom Hudson
Jordan Jacobson

*the 15th name drawn received a single ticket

MPTF Reminders

Members need to be aware that MPTF has adopted stricter time frames for submission of grant requests. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FEWER THAN 30 DAYS IN ADVANCE WILL BE RETURNED. This obviously means that all relevant materials regarding an MPTF performance must be received well before that deadline in order for the online application to be written in time for appropriate submission.

Please note below specific deadlines for special initiatives for February, March, and April (2027), funded at 100% of the Public Service scale. Begin planning performances now in order not to miss out on this valuable opportunity available to our members!

February - Black History Month - Submission deadline January 1, 2027
March - Women's History Month - Submission deadline February 1, 2027
April - Jazz Appreciation Month - Submission deadline March 1, 2027

How to Apply for MPTF Funding

WANT GIGS?

Are you a solo performer? Are you in a group?

AFM Entertainment is the official website for the AFM's booking and referral service. It connects musicians with gigs for events like weddings, parties, and corporate functions, acting as an online booking agency. The service provides a platform for AFM members to create a profile, register their act, and be hired by individuals and organizations seeking live music, while also offering AFM-approved contracts as a guarantee for bookings. The main website is visible to the general public. There is a separate link (top right of page) for musicians. That's where you upload your materials and register your act.

—> LET THE AFM DO THE HEAVY LIFTING FOR YOU! <—

The AFM provides the communication interface between potential customers and your group. It also handles all of the contract work. Acts can be listed in geographic regions beyond its home local. Only one member of a group needs to be an AFM member. Why wait? Visit AFM Entertainment today!

NOTE: There is another musical booking agency website called "AFM Entertainment" with a nearly identical URL except that it ends in ".com" THIS SITE HAS NO AFFILIATION WHATSOEVER WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS. They just happened to have registered their domain name first. Be sure to visit and bookmark the **.org site linked in this article.**



HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you have moved, PLEASE let us know your new address! You can easily change your address online at the AFM website, and that change will flow through to us here at Local 400. You can also send address updates to us via email or phone call, and we'll be happy to update our records.



*Don't forget to add **afmlocal400.org** to your trusted email senders so that our communications don't wind up in your junk/spam folders.*

*Add **(860) 854-8176** to your safe list of text message senders. We occasionally use this purchased number to send important voice or text messages to our members.*

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